Application Number 09/975,286
Responsive to Office Action mailed April 7, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for comparing an unknown string to a predefined string, the method comprising:

identifying a predefined string;

identifying an unknown string for comparisons with the predefined string;

performing a bitwise exclusive OR operation between an ASCII binary representation of at least a segment of the unknown string and an ASCII binary representation of at least a segment of the predefined string; ~~and~~

~~identifying a case-insensitive string match between the predefined string and the unknown string by applying~~ performing a bitwise operation between a predefined flag ~~to~~ and a result of the exclusive OR operation; and

comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise operation to produce an indication ~~indicator~~ for the case-insensitive string match.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a segment of the predefined string and identifying a segment of the unknown string for comparison with the predefined string.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the segment of the predefined string and the segment of the unknown string contain a same number of characters.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 2, further including left-shifting the binary representation of the segments if the segments contain less than four characters.

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Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein identifying a case-insensitive string match includes identifying a case-insensitive segment match based on the exclusive OR operation.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined flag is 0x20202020.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising identifying a subsequent segment of the predefined string and a subsequent segment of the unknown string for comparison.

Claim 9-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined flag is zero.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined flag is 0x20.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined flag is 0x20202020.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the segments of the unknown string and the segment of the predefined string each include one character.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the segments of the unknown string and the segment of the predefined string each include four characters.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the unknown string includes an HTTP header field.

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Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined string is from a table of predetermined HTTP header fields.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a case-insensitive match further includes performing another bitwise operation.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying the length of the strings.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the length of each of the strings are equal.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the computer-implemented method is used over a WAN.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if characters of the strings are within a predefined ASCII range.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein characters not within the predefined ASCII range caused the method to yield a negative string match.

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Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of case-insensitive string matching for use in a computer network, the method comprising ~~comparing a predefined string to an unknown string by~~

performing at least one bitwise exclusive OR operation between characters of ~~the~~ a predefined string and ~~the~~ corresponding characters of the unknown string, ~~and~~

~~identifying a case-insensitive string match by~~ performing a bitwise ~~AND~~ OR operation between a results of the bitwise exclusive OR operation and a predetermined flag; and

comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise OR operation to produce a single bit output that indicates whether a case-insensitive match exists between the predefined string and the unknown string.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A computer networking device for improving data transfer via a computer network, the device comprising a processor configured to compare a client HTTP header with a known HTTP header by

performing a bitwise exclusive OR operation on binary representations of the headers, ~~wherein case-insensitive HTTP header match is identified by~~

performing a bitwise ~~AND~~ OR operation between a result of the exclusive OR operation and a predetermined flag; and

comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise OR operation to produce an indication for a case-insensitive string match between the predefined string and the unknown string.

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Claim 26 (Currently Amended): An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions providing for:

identifying a predefined string;

identifying an unknown string for comparison with the predefined string;

performing a bitwise exclusive OR operation on the unknown string and the predefined string; and

~~identifying a case-insensitive string match between the predefined string and the unknown string by applying~~ performing a bitwise OR operation on a predetermined flag ~~to~~ and a result of the exclusive OR operation; and

comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise OR operation to produce an ~~indicator for~~ indication for a case-insensitive string match between the predefined string and the unknown string ~~the case-insensitive string match~~.

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